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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
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September 23, 2003

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His Excellency Hun Sen Prime Minister Kingdom of Cambodia Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

We write to you today as supporters of a close relationship between the United States and Cambodia and of strong ties between the Cambodian and American people. We believe that these links can grown even stronger, but only in the context of a peaceful and just political environment in Cambodia.

We understand that Cambodia's political leaders are now working towards the creation of a new Cambodian government as a result of the July 27 National Assembly elections. In order to meet the requirement in the Cambodian Constitution of two-thirds majority support in the National Assembly, we understand that the Cambodian People's Party which you head must form a coalition with the opposition.

We have no doubt that formation of a new Government will be a difficult task. But during this interim period, we urge you to ensure that all political parties are allowed to fully participate in this constitutional process. We believe it is critically important that all of Cambodia's political parties can make decisions about their potential role in a future Cambodian Government free of intimidation and violence. The process of forming of a new government is an opportunity to search for common ground, and we urge you to view it as an opportunity, not a threat.

As supporters of a strong bilateral relationship, we stand ready to advocate for increased political and economic cooperation between our two nations once a new Cambodian Government has been formed peacefully, without intimidation, and pursuant to the Cambodian Constitution.

James Leach

Chairman

Subcommittee on Asia and

the Pacific

ry J. Hyde Tom Lantos

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